

# INTERESTING EVENTS SURROUND THE SETTLEMENT OF DODDRIDGE COUNTY

## AND THE SELECTION OF PRESENT COUNTY SEAT

First Postoffice Was Located at Lewisport and Joseph Jeffrey Was Postmaster.

GOT NINETY-EIGHT CENTS

For His First Year's Work Which is Considered a Record in State.

On February 13, 1845, the legislature of Virginia spread upon its records the act which created Doddridge county. The territory necessary for the formation of Doddridge county was taken from Tyler and Harrison counties. With this act the already thickly populated territory, which was increasing in population every year, became a separate and distinct unit in the state government.

The date of the first settlement in Doddridge county is a mooted question. However, it is generally considered that the first settlers came from southern Pennsylvania. These emigrants came down the Ohio river from Pittsburgh, and other northern points and located along the banks of the river near the present site of Sistersville, and below as far as St. Marys. They discovered a stream which flowed into the Ohio river near Sistersville. Near the mouth of this stream, and located in the Ohio river was an island. The island extended above the mouth of the stream and the pioneers named it Middle Island. The stream took its name from this fact and it has had that name ever since. As time went on the harder emigrants pushed back from the Ohio and following the course of Middle Island creek, settled along its banks.

Later pioneers crossed from the valley of Virginia and settled in this new territory. About the year 1786, following the Buffalo trail, a part of which constitutes the Northwestern Virginia turnpike, the Virginians came into what is now Doddridge county. From that time forward the early pioneers diverged from various streams, running through what is now known as Doddridge county, and turned the wilderness into a populated district. Later, coming from the East, from Harrison county, what is now known as Doddridge county got an influx of good citizens, whose descendants are still to be found here.

Early Roads.

Roads were scarce in those days.

LORENZO L. SADLER.



Lorenzo L. Sadler is a native of Barbours county, but has lived in Doddridge county for the last thirty years. Mr. Sadler was educated in the common schools of West Virginia and is a graduate of Salem College. He also attended the state university several terms. Mr. Sadler has dedicated his life to school work and with the exception of the time he has spent in preparation for that work, all of his activities have been in the school room.

Five years ago Lorenzo L. Sadler was elected county superintendent of schools of Doddridge county. His work was of a high order and last year he was re-elected to the same office by a wide margin. His work during the second term is of as high and perhaps higher order than during the first term.

Before his election as county superintendent, Mr. Sadler taught school thirteen years. All of this time was spent in the Doddridge county schools with the exception of one term spent in Harrison county.

## PROSECUTOR M'CUE

HAS MADE GOOD

And He Will Probably Be a Candidate for Re-election.

Anthony Fielding M'Cue was born in Nicholas county thirty-one years ago. He graduated at Wesleyan College in the class of 1904 and then entered the law school of the West Virginia University. From the latter institution he graduated in the class of 1906. Mr. M'Cue went directly to West Union after he graduated and began the practice of law. Since that time he has had a marked degree of success in his profession. He bears the distinction of being the youngest practicing attorney at the Doddridge county bar, and at that he could not be called a stripling.

In 1908 Mr. M'Cue was a candidate for prosecuting attorney and was defeated. In 1912 he was again a candidate for the same office and was opposed by P. M. Ireland. Mr. M'Cue was returned by a handsome majority and today he is discharging the duties of the office with credit to himself and honor to his county. In all probability Mr. M'Cue will be a candidate for re-election.

The principal ones being little more than trails and cow patches. The first known record at an attempt to build a road in Doddridge county was in 1872. In that year the English government sent an engineering corps to run a line from Cumberland to the Ohio river, with the idea of constructing a military road. It is said by old settlers that this road was intended as a short route to the Ohio river, and the proposed route would have made the road through Doddridge county. The road was never built for the next year the colonies declared war against the mother country.

Early Families.

The Davis family, originally from New Jersey, figured prominently in the early history of this county. In 1821 the family moved into this section and purchased what is known as the Caldwell, Woods and Chapline surveys, embracing sixteen thousand two hundred acres, on a part of which the town of West Union is now located. In 1852 the Davis family conveyed the same to Lewis Maxwell, reserving therefrom fourteen hundred and fifty-seven acres extending from the mouth of Doe run to the mouth of Blue Stone, including the present site of West Union. Nathan Davis and Joseph Davis conveyed the land back to Lewis Maxwell, who sold portions thereof to Joseph Jeffrey, and Jeffrey played an important part in the early affairs of the county.

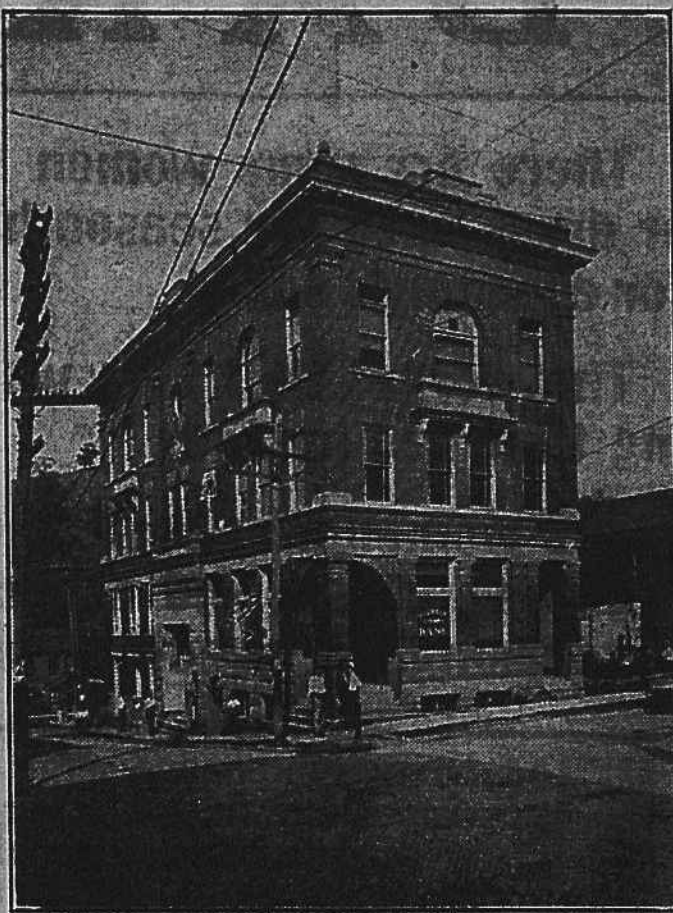
First Postoffice.

On the part of the land sold to Joseph Jeffrey, a postoffice was established in 1825, called Lewisport, which was located one mile east of the present site of West Union, on the Northwestern turnpike. The postmaster general's report for the year 1828 shows that Joseph Jeffrey then the postmaster at Lewisport, received 98 cents salary for his year's work.

Along about this time Ephraim Bee kept a hotel near the top of the Grave Yard bend, which is now known as the Block House. Hill, Nathan Davis lived in a brick house where the present Doddridge county court house now stands. Mr. Davis had a well in the rear of his dwelling, the walls of which were dug into when the court house was constructed. J. H. Dis Bar, an educated Frenchman, who led a party of Germans into this territory in 1856 and located a colony at what is known as the Cove district, naming the colony St. Clara, is said to have courted and won his second wife as she carried water from this same spring. That spring now furnishes the supply of water for the Howard fountain.

Mr. Dis Bar was the designer of the coat of arms of West Virginia.

## DODDRIDGE COUNTY BANK.



In 1900 the Doddridge County Bank was established in West Union. Up until 1893 the people of West Union were compelled to go to Clarksburg or Parkersburg, and occasionally to Wheeling to do their banking. West Union was in the same senatorial district as Ritchie, Tyler and Wetzel and up until that time no bank existed in the district. West Union enjoys the distinction of being the home of the first banking establishment in this senatorial district.

After the establishment of the first bank in West Union, it soon became evident that the institution was not able to handle all the business, so in 1900 the Doddridge County Bank was established. It might be interesting to note that one of the prime movers in the establishment of the new bank was L. R. Charter, who built the first hotel in West Union and who was active in the affairs of early West Union. The Doddridge County Bank has been eminently successful from its inception. In the beginning the avowed purpose of founders of the bank was to do a regular commercial banking business and carry checking accounts and deposits. The sound method by which the business has always been conducted and the courteous treatment given to depositors, no matter how small the account, and the effort to meet the people of Doddridge county more than half-way in the matter of accommodation, has been the reasons for the unusual success of the Doddridge County Bank.

The Doddridge County Bank occupies the first floor of the bank building which stands on the corner of Main and Columbian streets. The building is constructed of pressed brick, trimmed with stone and the three other floors are occupied by offices and lodges. The building is one of the most beautiful and best constructed ones in the city.

Every precaution has been taken to protect the funds of the depositor. A National screw-door safe is the depository for the money entrusted to the care of the Doddridge County Bank and in addition, a heavy burglar insurance is carried.

The officers of the Doddridge County Bank are J. M. Gribble, president; J. D. McReynolds, vice-president; and L. R. Charter, cashier.

He was the first emigrant commissioner of West Virginia and made his home for years near the site of Leopold.

Early Trouble.

In the wrangle that followed the organization of Doddridge county, Lewisport and West Union were contenders for the location of the county seat. There was a great deal of bitterness in the contest. The Davis family wanted the court house located at West Union, and the Bee faction in what was then known as Lewisport. A vote was taken and the county seat was located at West Union. In pursuance with his agreement, Captain Nathan Davis deeded the county court the plot of ground upon which the present court house now stands. Lewisport, subsequent to the founding of West Union went into decadence. The postoffice was abolished and today that settlement is a portion of West Union.

The First Court House.

On the plot of ground deeded to the county court by Nathan Davis was located a brick building, which Mr. Davis had used as a hotel. This building was used as a court house until about the year 1850, when the county court ordered a new building constructed. This was built on the same site and was used until 1889. In that year, the building being too small for the growing needs of the county, a new building was ordered constructed, the commissioners then being B. H. Maulsby, Jacob Benninger and W. S. Ross. The new building was occupied until 1898, when it was destroyed by fire and the present structure was erected.

The First Hotel.

About the time of the formation of the county, Nathan Davis laid out the present location of West Union into town lots. The surveying was done by a man named Bond. The lots were intended to have been at right angle with what is now Main street, but unfortunately they were made acute angles. Among the early settlers and purchasers of lots were many people whose descendants now reside here. The first hotel built here was constructed by Dr. L. R. Charter. The building stood on the corner now occupied by the First National Bank. Moses Jennings, of Uniontown, Pa., built a hotel where the Cox Brothers place of business now stands. John J. Ingle built a hotel where the Record office now stands, which he afterwards sold to F. M. E. Smith, who sold the same to James A. Foley, who owned it at the time of the fire of 1898, when it was destroyed. The U. S. Hotel, built by Jennings, was torn down about 1900 to make room for the present Cox Brothers store. L. T. Davis, grandson of Nathan Davis, kept a hotel on Main street during the Civil war, and still occupies the same building at the age of 82 years.

First Bank.

The first bank located in West Union was established in 1896. It was named West Union Bank and was followed two years later by the Doddridge County Bank, and two years later

## WINDOW GLASS IS MADE IN QUANTITY

By Doddridge Window Glass Company; Big Growth Since Its Inception.

The Doddridge Window Glass Company was organized in 1911 for the purpose of manufacturing high grade window glass. January 23, 1912 work was started at the plant. The establishment is located about three-quarters of a mile from West Union proper, along the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and about four acres of ground is occupied by the buildings and side tracks. The ground upon which the plant stands is owned by the company.

Natural gas is used as fuel by the Doddridge Window Glass Company, and the cheapness of this fuel, together with the excellent site offered by West Union citizens were the cause for the organization of the company and its location.

At the present time extensive repairs are being made at the plant and preparations are being made for the busy season. Work will begin the first part of October and the prospects are that it will be continued steadily during the coming winter and spring. The Doddridge Window Glass Company is a handsome plant and about 115 men are employed. There is one tank with twenty-four blowers. The plant is a very large factor in the industrial life of West Union.

The officers of the company are as follows: John J. Foley, president; L. R. Charter, Jr., secretary; and J. G. Charter, treasurer.

There was not a bank located in this district.

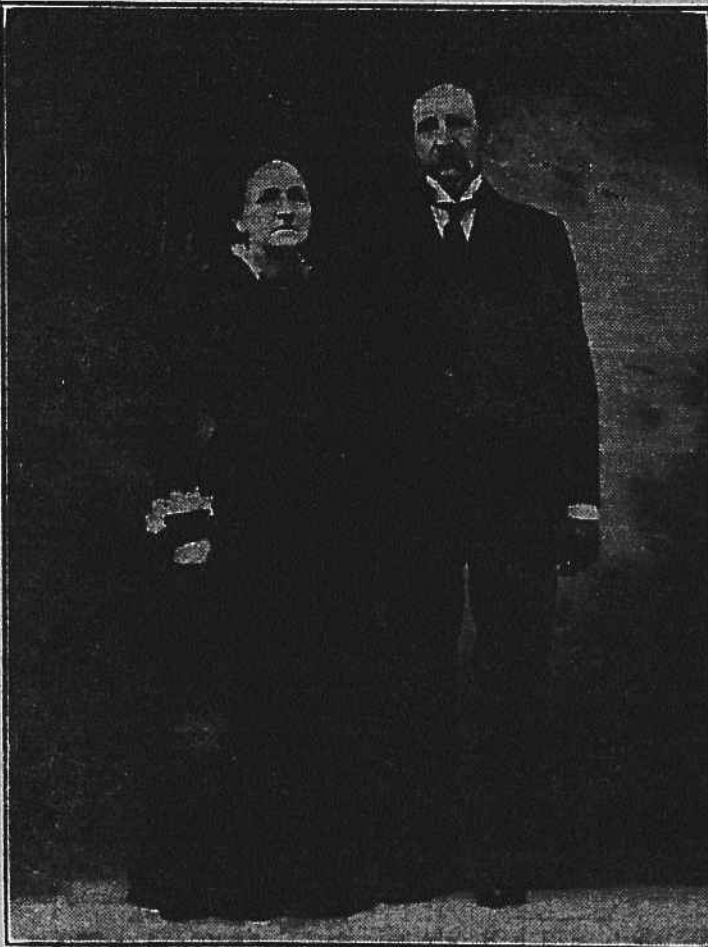
Early Stores.

Ephraim Bee, who ran a blacksmith shop on the bridge, spanning Middle Island creek, conducted the first store in this community. As settlers came in other general stores were established to accommodate this growing territory. About that time the Neely House at Morgantown, the Jacob house, on Pritchard's Run and the Brick House at Greenwood flourished.

Early Schools.

Before the war no free schools existed in Virginia, but about the beginning, or a little before the war the Southern Methodists built a house in West Union, which still stands and is occupied by Mrs. Lulu Dorton. This building was used for a short time as an academy. This was disrupted by the war and then for some time the schools in West Union were mostly of a private character. About 1867 the first free school was taught in the old academy building by P. P. Randolph, of Salem, who is still living. About 1868 the independent school district was formed and a lot was purchased from James A. Foley, where the Columbian Hotel now stands and a two-story frame building was erected. This building is a part of the above mentioned hotel. In the early days two teachers were

## SHERIFF AND MRS. ELI NUTTER

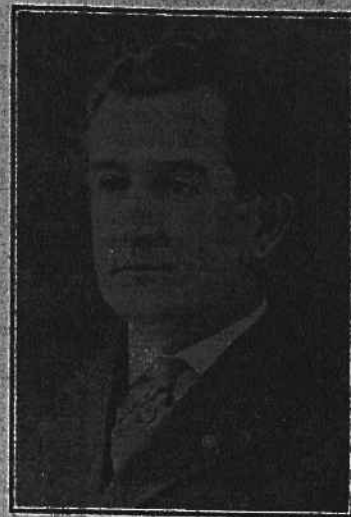


There is one man in West Virginia who is an earnest opponent of race prejudice. He has demonstrated his earnestness by his life. Eli Nutter is the gentleman's name and he is the son of Doddridge county. Mr. Nutter is the father of thirteen children, ten girls and three boys and every one is a fine specimen of physical health. Mr. Nutter was born in Doddridge county in 1853. His great grandfather owned the ground upon which stood the old Nutter fort in Harrison county. When Mr. Nutter was a small child both his father and mother died and he made his home with Lewis Maxwell. In 1878 Mr. Nutter and Mary Francis Maxwell were married and began housekeeping in this county. Mrs. Nutter is the daughter of William Maxwell, who served in the state legislature from this district for a number of terms. Without one dollar of capital Eli

Nutter and his young bride began their home making. They bought a farm in this county and setting their shoulders to the wheel began their fight. Today Eli Nutter owns 1,200 acres of farm land in this county and is well fixed as far as the material goods of the earth are concerned. He has reared a family of thirteen children and today is held in high esteem by the people of Doddridge county. Mr. Nutter's life demonstrates what can be done by a man, who, although he begins without worldly wealth, has steadfastness of purpose and unflinching energy. Much of the credit, however, is due to the faithful and loving wife.

In 1913 Eli Nutter was elected sheriff of Doddridge county on the Republican ticket, by a handsome majority. He still maintains his farm and takes a great interest in overseeing it.

## G. C. HOWARD.



Forty-one years ago G. C. Howard was born at Pullman, Ritchie county, W. Va. When only 18 years of age Mr. Howard had his first experience in dentistry, the profession which he is practicing at the present time. During the years that followed the first experience, Dr. Howard has practiced the profession of dentistry with a marked degree of success.

Eight years ago Dr. Howard came to West Union and opened a dental office. Since that time he has gained the confidence of the people and two years ago he was elected mayor of West Union. At the end of the first term he was re-elected.

There have been many improvements made about the city during the administration of Dr. Howard. It was during this time that over three miles of paved streets were constructed. And with these improvements there came the opening of the old Davis Spring. It was wholly through the efforts of Dr. Howard that the spring was opened and the present Howard Fountain was constructed. The fountain stands at the corner of Church and Main streets and refreshes man, bird and beast with its cooling water.

employed and the three R's were expounded to the children of the town people. The territory included practically the same territory it now has. Today there are located in West Union a school building with ten rooms, a one room building on Roe Run and a two-room building in the Wabash addition. The ten room building, in which the high school is located, was erected at the cost of about \$20,000, which money was raised by a bond issue. It is constructed of pressed brick and stucco and is equipped with all the modern conveniences.

Religious Bodies.

The religious bodies were well represented in the early days of West Union. In 1859 the Methodist Episcopal became established here on the site of the present building. During the construction of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, the Catholics erected a church building on their cemetery lot, but in 1859, built a church and parsonage in the west end of the town. The Baptists built on the corner of Cottage avenue and Court street, a few years since, a beautiful building. The United Brethren, about 1905, erected a fine church and parsonage near the banks of the Middle Island Creek. The Christian church has built a beautiful edifice in the Wabash addition.

Oil Development.

The first activity in the oil business came to Doddridge county in 1889. In that year J. M. Guffey and Company came into the county seeking leases on a land for oil and gas, offering a small bonus to the farmers. The farmers readily leased their land and soon practically the entire county was under lease. A short time afterwards T. M. Jackson came into the county and took up a large number of leases, and about this time the Standard Oil Company, through the representatives of the South Penn Oil Company, bought up the leases that had been taken by the other two parties and leased thousands of additional acres for themselves. About the year 1890 the South Penn Company made locations at Franks Run/Toms Fork and other places in the county and proceeded to drill for oil. Producing wells were found and the oil excitement began. From that time on for a number of years, the oil business prospered in Doddridge county. Large amounts of money were invested in leases and developments. The excitement having subsided, the development devolved into the hands of a few, principally the tributary companies of the Standard Oil.

West Union.

West Union was incorporated three times. The first time about 1873. That charter died a natural death. It

(Continued on page 10.)

## SMITH & SMITH IS PROGRESSIVE FIRM

And is Doing a Big Share of the Hardware Business in West Union.

Among the younger firms of West Union, and one which is doing its share of business is the Smith and Smith Hardware Company. Two years ago Craig A. Smith and Ira E. Smith purchased the stock of the Acme Hardware Company. The Acme had been in business for some five or six years and up until the purchase by the Smith brothers had enjoyed a large patronage.

Smith and Smith carry a general line of hardware and builders' supplies. A complete line of farm implements are always kept on hand and a large stock of paints, oils, roofing and glass is kept.

Smith and Smith occupy the first floor of the Masonic Temple building on Main street and is one of the largest hardware establishments in the county. The firm draws trade from all over the county and from several of the adjoining counties.

Ira E. Smith, one of the members of the firm is not actively engaged in conducting the hardware business, but is employed in the Doddridge County Bank. The management of the hardware concern is wholly in the hands of Craig A. Smith, and under his efficient supervision Smith and Smith is fast forging to the front among the progressive establishments of Doddridge county.

## O. A. ASHBURN.

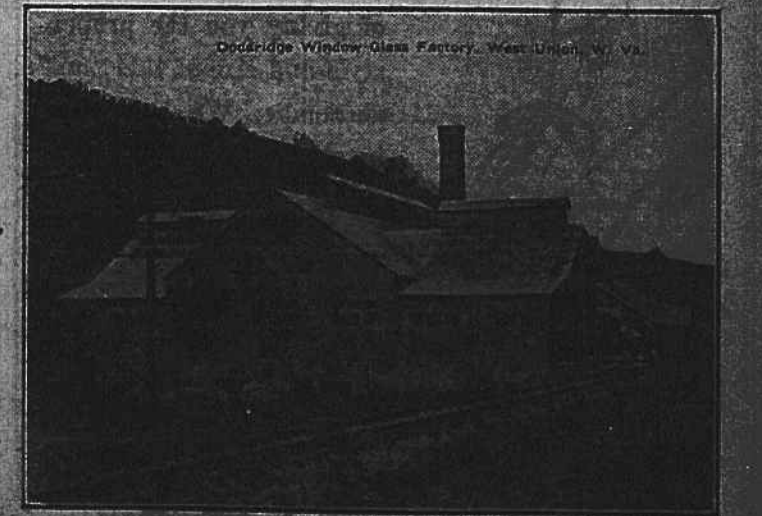


O. A. Ashburn was born in Doddridge county December 12, 1872. The place of his birth was about three miles from West Union, the county seat. Mr. Ashburn was educated in the common schools of the county, Fairmont normal, Salem college and the state university at Morgantown. Afterward he became engaged in school work and not taught fourteen terms, thirteen of these in Doddridge county and one at Sutton, Braxton county. He was county superintendent of schools for Doddridge county eight years and during that time became prominent as an educator throughout the entire state.

Mr. Ashburn occupies a noted position in that he was one of the five county superintendents who assisted in compiling the rules and regulations for the uniform teachers' examination.

Eight years ago last fall O. A. Ashburn was elected to the state senate on the Republican ticket. He served one term, four years, with credit to himself and his constituents. While not on the educational committee in the senate, Senator Ashburn was, nevertheless, one of the most active workers for school legislation. During his term of office as a state senator he made an unusual record for a young man. He is the author of the two-cent rate law and the uniform text book law. During the spring of this year the state board of education granted Senator Ashburn the first life teacher's certificate that was ever granted in West Virginia. This was done in recognition of the untiring efforts of the Senator to place the educational system of the state on a higher plane.

July 1, 1915 Senator Ashburn was appointed inspector of weights and measures for West Virginia. He is one of the two inspectors who will have complete charge of weights and measures in the state. At the present time he is engaged in inaugurating the work of his office, and is stationed at Morgantown, where he is conducting work in the physical laboratories of the state university.



DODDRIDGE WINDOW GLASS FACTORY

ANTHONY F. M'CUE.